



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

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March 17, 1980

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

Dr. Martin Kamen
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Los Angeles, California 90007

Dear Martin:

I was very glad to get your note of March 7th indicating that your committee is considering an honorary degree for Max Delbrück. It is hard to imagine anyone better qualified for such a distinction. His magisterial contributions to the development of quantitative biology and genetics were already recognized in a signal way by the Festschrift in his honor, Phage and The Origins of Molecular Biology, not to mention the Nobel Prize. He has continued to be a productive investigator in his own field of specialized interest -- the genetics and phototropism of *Phycomyces*: I was interested to see a contribution quite germane to my own interests in a recent issue of *Genetics*.

The only reservation that I can imagine being lodged against the proposal is that he has already received many worthy honors; but it is often true that one's local community is the last to offer appropriate recognition! So you would be depriving yourself of an extraordinary opportunity not to make this overture at this time.

Yours sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg